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CONSTITUTION

OF THE

KANSAS

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

CONSTITUTION.

1. This association shall be styled the Kansas State Historical Society. The object of this Society shall be to collect, embody, arrange and preserve books, pamphlets, maps, charts, manuscripts, papers, paintings, statuary and other materials illustrative of the history of Kansas in particular, and of the country generally; to procure from the early pioneers narratives of the events relative to the early settlement of Kansas and of the early explorations, the Indian occupancy, overland travel and immigration to the territory and the West; to gather all information calculated to exhibit faithfully the antiquities and the past and present resources and progress of the state, and to take steps to promote the study of history by lectures and other available means.

2. This Society shall consist of active, life, honorary and corresponding members, who may be chosen by the Board of Directors of the Society at any regular or special meeting, except at their meeting next preceding the annual meeting of the Society the active members to consist of citizens of the state, by the payment of two dollars an-

nually ; the life members, by the payment at any one time of twenty dollars ; the honorary and corresponding members, who shall be exempt from fee or taxation, shall be chosen from persons in any part of the world distinguished for their literary or scientific attainments, and known especially as friends and promoters of history. Editors and publishers of newspapers and periodicals who contribute the regular issues of the same to the collections of the Society shall be considered as active members of the Society during the continuance of such contribution.

3. There shall be a Board of Directors of the Society, to consist of ninety-nine members, who shall be elected from among the members of the Society ; or, if any person be elected who shall not at the time be a member of the Society, he shall become such by payment of the annual membership fee of two dollars ; and he shall then become qualified to act as a member of the Board of Directors upon taking the oath of office as such. The members of the Board of Directors shall be of three classes, to serve for terms of one, two and three years respectively. Any person elected a member of the Board of Directors who shall fail to qualify within twenty days after being notified of his election shall be deemed to have declined the office, and the same shall thereby be considered vacant. Any vacancy in the Board of Directors, or in any office of the Society, may be filled by the Executive Committee at any meeting subsequent to the occurring thereof. Any number not less than five shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. No member of the Board of Directors, or other officer, except the Secretary, shall receive pay for any of the ordinary duties of his office.

4. The elective officers of the Society shall consist of a President and two Vice-Presidents, who shall hold their of-

offices for the term of one year, and until their successors shall be chosen; and a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall hold their offices for the term of two years, and until their successors shall be chosen; said officers to be chosen by the Board of Directors from their members, their election to be made at the first meeting of the Board subsequent to the annual meeting of the Society; and their terms of office shall begin at the date of their election and qualification in office. And in addition to these elective officers, all donations of money or property (if accepted by the Board of Directors) to the amount or value of five hundred dollars shall constitute the donors life Directors of the Society during their natural lives; but such life Directors shall never exceed in number the regularly elected Directors: and all moneys from life-directorships or from donations or bequests, unless specifically directed otherwise by such life Directors, donors, or devisors, shall be invested to the best advantage, and the accruing interest only shall be used, and shall be employed in such manner, for the benefit of the Society, as the Board of Directors may direct.

5. The annual meeting of the Society shall be held in Topeka, on the third Tuesday in January; and those members, not less than ten, who meet at any annual or special meeting of the Society upon the call of the Board of Directors shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

6. The President, or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents, or in their absence any member of the Society selected on the occasion, shall preside at the annual or any special meeting of the Society. Such presiding officer shall preserve order, regulate the order of proceedings, and give a casting vote whenever the same is required.

7. The Secretary shall preserve a full and correct record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Society and Board

of Directors, to be entered on his book in chronological order. These records shall always be open for the inspection of any member of the Society. He shall conduct the correspondence of the Society; shall preserve for the Society the official communications addressed to him, and keep copies of important official letters written by him; he shall collect, or cause to be collected, moneys due to the Society, and pay the same to the Treasurer; he shall give notice of the meetings of the Society and of the Board of Directors; he shall edit and supervise, under the direction of the Publication Committee, the publications of the Society, direct the literary exchanges, and shall write out and cause to be published, in one or more of the Topeka papers, the proceedings, or a synopsis thereof, of the meetings of the Society and Board of Directors; he shall have charge of the books, manuscripts and other collections of the Society; he shall keep a catalog of the same, together with all additions made during his official term; in case of donation, he shall specify in his record the name of the book, manuscript or article donated, with the name of the donor and date of the gift; he shall make an annual report of the condition of the library, and respond to all calls which may be made upon him touching the same, at any annual or special meeting of the Society.

8. The Treasurer shall receive and have charge of all dues, and donations and bequests of money, and all funds whatsoever of the Society, and shall pay such sums as the Board of Directors may from time to time direct, on the warrant of the chairman of said Board, countersigned by the Secretary; and he shall make an annual report of the pecuniary transactions of the Society, and also exhibit a statement of the funds and property of the Society in his hands, at any stated or special meeting, when thereto required.

9. The Secretary and Treasurer shall give satisfactory bonds, in such sums as the Board of Directors may deem proper, for the faithful performance of their respective duties, and for the faithful preservation of property of every kind belonging to the Society; and such bonds shall be filed among the papers of the Society.

10. The President, or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents, shall preside at the meetings of the Board of Directors, and in their absence the members present may select a chairman from their number to preside, and to perform such duties as may be prescribed for him. The Directors shall supervise and direct the financial and business concerns of the Society; may augment the library, cabinet, and gallery, by purchase or otherwise; may make arrangements for a single lecture or a course of lectures, for promoting historic knowledge and increasing the pecuniary resources of the association. They shall have power to fill any vacancies occurring in their number. They shall audit and adjust all accounts of the Society. They may call special meetings when necessary; appoint the annual orator; make suitable arrangements for the delivery of the annual address; use their discretion as to the publication of any communications, collections, transactions, annual or other addresses, or other written matters of the Society; and they shall annually make a full report of their transactions, accompanied by such suggestions as may seem to them appropriate and worthy of attention. They may appoint an Executive Committee from their own number, to perform such duties as may be prescribed for such committee.

11. The Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to cause the bills for the annual dues of active members to be made out and sent to the address of such members on or

before the first day of June of each year, with a copy of this article, and if the amount of such dues is not paid to the Treasurer of this Society on or before the first day of December following, of said year, those members in arrears shall be deemed to have forfeited their membership, and their names shall be stricken from the roll of members. The term of annual membership shall begin from and after the third Tuesday in January of each year.

12. The Board of Directors may adopt by-laws for their own government and guidance, not inconsistent with this constitution.

13. This constitution may be amended at any annual meeting of the Society: *Provided*, That the proposed amendment shall have been reduced to writing and entered on the minutes of the Society at least three months previous to a vote being taken on the same: *And provided also*, That a majority of the members present shall concur in the adoption of the amendment or amendments proposed.

BY-LAWS.

1. There is hereby created an Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Society, to consist of five members, to be appointed subsequent to the annual meeting of the Society, and to hold their office until the next annual meeting.

2. The Executive Committee shall audit all accounts presented against the Society, and all warrants drawn on the Treasurer shall be upon sworn vouchers approved by a majority of the members of the Executive Committee.

3. The Executive Committee shall examine and audit the accounts and vouchers of the Treasurer annually before the time of the annual meeting, and at the annual meeting they shall make a written report to the Board of Directors.

4. The Executive Committee shall determine the character of the published reports of the Society, and shall decide what papers from its transactions and collections the biennial report shall contain.

5. The Executive Committee shall take such action as the interests of the Society shall from time to time demand in relation to providing and furnishing suitable rooms for its collections, and shall consult with the Secretary, and with him decide upon the purchasing of books to augment the Society's library.

6. There shall be a Committee on Program and Addresses, to consist of five members of the Board; and it shall be the duty of the committee to provide for the addresses and proceedings of annual and other meetings, and to take such action as may be deemed advisable in reference to the delivery from time to time of lectures and addresses on historical subjects at the state capital or elsewhere.

7. There shall be a Committee on Legislation, to consist of three or more members of the Society; and it shall be the duty of the committee to confer with the members and committees of the legislature, and present for their consideration and action the matters of legislation which the Board of Directors shall recommend.

8. There shall be a Committee on Nominations, to consist of five members of the Board; and it shall be the duty of the committee, annually, at some time previous to the annual meeting of the Society, to make a selection of persons whom they deem proper to recommend for members of the Board of Directors, and shall present the same for the action of the Society at the annual meeting.

9. All committees shall be appointed by the President.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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